

From: Jim Hartneady
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 3:03pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ladies/Gentlemen:

Microsoft has used its operating system monopoly to destroy its competition in the application field. It has done this through sweetheart deals with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) and utilization of predatory pricing. The sweetheart deals required the OEM to purchase a copy of the MicroSoft OS even if the computer was going to be used for Linux. That is power. It is also abuse of power. If your recommended solution does not prevent and punish this type behavior then your efforts are a waste of your time.

The predatory pricing meant that with the profits from their monopoly in the OS they could sell their applications at a lower price than a competitor. Such a low price that the competitor could not make a profit. Without a profit they went out of business. How many of you think that PowerPoint or Word are the "best" applications you have ever used. How many competing applications do they have in the business world? Monopoly is wonderful when it is benevolent. MicroSoft, however, is not and never will be a benevolent monopolist.

If you correct their behavior to the point where others can compete you have done your jobs and done them well.

Good luck,

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